

glass sheet, the protruding sheet portion having a larger specific volume and a lower density than the remaining portion of the glass sheet;

etching the heat-treated sheet to form a groove in and along the sheet portion including said cutting line; and

breaking the glass sheet along said groove.

2. (AMENDED) The process according to claim 1, wherein said temperature is lower than the melting temperature of the glass sheet.

3. (AMENDED) The process according to claim 1, wherein two laser beams facing each other are employed for heating opposite surfaces of the glass sheet simultaneously.

4. (AMENDED) The process according to claim 1, wherein said cooling is forced convection and achieved immediately after said heating.

5. (AMENDED) The process according to claim 4, wherein said cooling employs pressurized air as a coolant.

11. (AMENDED) The process according to claim 10, wherein said curve is a circle.

12. (AMENDED) The process according to claim 10, wherein said laser beam is inclined to a line normal to said surface of the glass sheet so that said groove may present a conical, or likewise tapered surface.

Please enter the following new claims.

14. (NEW) The process according to claim 1 wherein said groove formed by said etching has a round edge at an open end thereof.

15 (NEW) The process according to claim 1 wherein said groove formed by said etching has a U-shaped cross section.

16. (NEW) The process according to claim 11 wherein said circle has a maximum roundness deviation of 10 μm .